

Pete Harring
Washington

Senator Joseph Baldacci, Representative Ann Matlack, and distinguished members of the Committee On State and Local Government

My name is Pete Harring from Washington, ME. I am not a lobbyist or a member of any special interests group. I am an American citizen and a resident here in the Great State of Maine. I come to you today to ask that you vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1057 A RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State.

We live in a Constitutional Republic, and as such every American is afforded a voice. One of the many ways for our voices to be heard is through our voting process. By amending our state Constitution to allow a popular vote for a Secretary of State would support this ideal. The Secretary of State is the chief clerk of the state and is often the primary custodian of important state records, voting processes and other important clerical duties. Therefore, they should be directly representing the people. However, as we have seen with the current and previous Secretary of State, this is not the case. Both have put their political party, party goals and ideology before their sworn duties of their office. By amending our Constitution to a popular vote, this should mitigate the political charade that has befallen the Secretary of State office.

I strongly encourage this committee vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1057 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State.

Thank you for your time. Hope you all have a Blessed day.
Pete Harring